

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Sophia Sasko and I am a student and I live in East Hartford, Connecticut.

**I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.**

I have been fortunate enough to have a family who is able to support me when it comes to getting medical attention and, therefore, have never had to experience any fear with being unable to access healthcare.

Yet throughout this pandemic, COVID-19 has scared not only myself but the rest of the world. When it first came about, everyone was terrified of what it could do to communities, seeing as there was no medicine to ease its impact on people. It was through this worldwide phenomenon that I was able to experience what it is like to be scared of something that could negatively influence my health, but not be able to receive anything to help me through it.

This fear is most likely what undocumented immigrants have to go through each day of their lives, wondering if they will get sick and if they do how they'll recover. They have unique families and lives which they wish to protect, yet they have no healthcare to protect these precious things. No matter how severe their condition is, they receive no help.

These people have fled their country in turn for ours, seeking help from whatever hardships they may have faced. We are a wealthy country who prides ourselves on the freedom we provide and the true equality we are reaching to attain. There have been numerous steps taken to achieve this true equality, but another important one would be supporting this legislation.

Healthcare is not a luxury, but a necessity. It is a basic human right that these people should have been granted from the start. I ask that you please give this community the help they need to be healthy.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,  
Sophia Sasko